Low-yield by Indian cows

4300. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian cows are low yielding animals;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the yielding capacity of the cows;

(c) whether the National Dairy Research and Development Institute, Bangalore, has sought more aid for Research and Development; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir, in general large number of cows are poor milk yielders.

(b) Steps proposed to improve the yield of milk from Indian cows are— (i) upgrading of non-descript animals, (ii) cross breeding with exotic animals, (iii) improved technologies of insemination/natural service, (iv) improved health protection by vaccinations, diagonostics and treatment and (v) advising farmers to improve nutrition and management based on the scientific knowledge.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The request is under process.

Remunerative price for milk producers

4301. SHRI. H. K. JAVARE GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks number one in the world in the production of milk; if so, the details of production, State-wise; and

(b) whether the price paid to farmers/producers is not remunerative; if so, what steps Government propose to take to make it remunerative ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The State-wise production of milk for 2000-01 is given in the enclosed Statement *(See below)*.

(b) The procurement price of milk is decided by various players in the dairy sector including the State Governments, Cooperative Milk Unions and the private entrepreneurs and varies from region to region.